the display layer **140**. The light in combination with the disrupted liquid crystal creates the image displayed on the upper surface **118** of the display device **110**.

[**0022**] As described above, the display device **110** is flexible. Accordingly, the mechanism used to affix the display layer **140** to the backlight layer **142** should maintain the flexibility of the display device **110**. For example a transparent and pliable adhesive having a low durometer may be applied between the display layer **140** and the display layer **140** to adhere the layers together.

[**0023**] In addition to being flexible, the display device **110** is also lightweight. As implied above, there are no heavy substrates used within the display device **110**. Accordingly, the display device **110** is lighter than conventional display devices. As described in greater detail below, the lightweight display device **110** increases the durability of the display device **110** and the viewing device **100**, **FIG. 1**, as a whole. For example, if the viewing device **100** is dropped, there is a reduced probability that the impact of the drop will render the viewing device **100** inoperable because only a minimal force acts upon the lightweight display device **110** upon impact.

[**0024**] Having described the components of the viewing device **100**, the operation of the viewing device **100** will now be described.

[**0025**] Referring again to **FIG. 1**, the viewing device **100** serves to convert image data to an image for display by the display device **110**. Because the display device **110** is flexible, the viewing device **100** can be mishandled to a greater extent than a conventional viewing device without suffering damage. The flexibility of the display device **110** also provides for the viewing device **100** to be easily passed among people. For example, the display device **110** may wrap around the handle **112** so as to be compact and easily transported or handed to a person.

[**0026**] Image data is downloaded to the handle **112** of the viewing device **100** from the media device **136**. The handle **112** may have a memory device, such as electronic random access memory that stores the image data downloaded from the media device **136**. In another embodiment of the viewing device **100**, the image data is stored on the media device **136** and is not stored in the viewing device **100**. Electronics and/or software in the handle **112** transform the image data to a format so that images represented by the image data can be replicated on the upper surface **118** of the display device **110**.

[**0027**] Image data representative of a first image is processed by the handle **112** so as to cause the first image to be displayed on the upper surface **118** of the display device **110**. A user may press the increment button **138** to cause successive images to be displayed on the upper surface **118** of the display device **110**. A user may display a specific image by use of the numeric keypad **137**. For example, a user wishing to view the seventh image may press the number seven, not shown, on the numeric keypad **137**, which will cause the viewing device **100** to display the seventh image on the display device **110**.

[**0028**] The viewing device **100** has many advantages over conventional film-type photographs. For example, film-type photographs wear and are subject to being damaged when they are passed among people. The display device **110** is more durable than film-type photographs and can be cleaned unlike film-type photographs. Accordingly, the images displayed by the display device **110** are not subject to degradation after being passed among users. In addition, the images displayed by the viewing device **100** remain in a predetermined order, whereas conventional film-type photographs tend to become disorganized as they are passed among people.

[**0029**] Having described an embodiment of the viewing device **100**, other embodiments will now be described.

[**0030**] The display device **110** described in **FIGS. 1 and 2** uses a liquid crystal display device, which requires a relatively high amount of power. One embodiment of the display device **110** uses a flexible light-emitting device. This embodiment alleviates the need for the backlight layer **142**. Accordingly, the display device **110** may have a single layer, which may increase the flexibility of the display device **110**. More specifically, the single layer eliminates the slip planes inherent with regard to the display device **110** having a display layer **140** and a backlight layer **142** operatively connected together. In one non-limiting embodiment of the viewing device **100**, the display device **110** is a flexible organic light-emitting display. Such displays are known in the art.

[**0031**] The flexible light-emitting device may use less power than the LCD device using the backlight layer **142**. Accordingly, a portable power source, such as the above-referenced batteries, associated with the viewing device **100** may last longer. The use of the flexible light-emitting device may also improve viewing of the viewing device **100** in dark conditions.

[**0032**] Another embodiment of the display device **110** includes the addition of a flexible pressure sensing layer **160** or a touchscreen **160** is shown in **FIG. 4**. The pressure sensing layer **160** may be a transparent layer having an upper surface **162** and a lower surface **164**. The upper surface **162** of the pressure sensing layer **160** is the same surface as the upper surface **118** of the display device **110** as shown in **FIG. 1**. The lower surface **164** is operatively connected to an upper surface **166** of a display layer **168**. The display layer **168** may be substantially similar to the display devices described above and may serve to display data generated by the handle **112**, **FIG. 1**.

[**0033**] The pressure sensing layer **160** may serve as an input device for the viewing device **100**, **FIG. 1**. For example, a user may modify the replicated image displayed on the display device **110** by use of the pressure sensing layer **160**. In one example of modifying a displayed image, a user may input an enlarge command to the handle **112** by pressing preselected keys on the numeric keypad **137**. The user may then enlarge a portion of the replicated image by pressing the pressure sensing layer **160** in the vicinity of the replicated image that is to be enlarged.

[**0034**] The pressure sensing layer **160** may also enable a user to select images to be replicated. For example, the display device **110** may display a plurality of small thumbnail images on the display device **110** that are representative of images stored in the media device **136**. A user may enlarge one of the thumbnail images by simply pressing the pressure sensing layer **160** in the vicinity of the thumbnail image that is to be enlarged.